

Return to Use Initiative

2006 Demonstration Project

Strasburg Landfill: Newlin and West Bradford Townships, Pennsylvania

THE SITE: The Strasburg Landfill site is a 302-acre landfill cleaned up under Superfund in Chester County, Pennsylvania. In 1978, landfilling operations of industrial wastes began on 24 acres near the center of the site. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania permanently prohibited the landfill from receiving industrial wastes in 1980. In 1983, the Commonwealth closed the operations at the landfill after volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and heavy metals were found in on-site monitoring wells and soil and various VOCs were found in an off-site private well downgradient from the landfill. There is a trout breeding stream within 200 feet of the site. For more site information see: <http://epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD000441337.htm>. Cleanup of the site is complete. A protective cap has been constructed over the landfill and a leachate collection and treatment system installed. Ground water continues to be monitored. Maintenance of these systems continues today.

THE OPPORTUNITY: Several parties are interested in reusing the site. West Bradford Township has considered using the site for park land.

THE BARRIERS: Property ownership is not clear because of prior transfers of property interest. Also, any future use needs to consider the natural trout breeding stream which is within 200 feet of the site. Currently, access to the landfill is restricted by a fence that is intended to keep out trespassers and prevent vehicles from driving on the cap. Warning signs are posted to deter potential users from entering the site. The various groups interested in using the site need to determine whether their proposed uses are consistent with the remedy, and which of the uses are most appropriate for the area and community.

THE SOLUTION: EPA has organized meetings between the Town Managers of Newlin and West Bradford Townships, EPA representatives and attorneys, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and parties who have expressed interest in acquiring the property.

THE SITE NOW: EPA will facilitate discussion with parties interested in using the site and look for ways to remove obstacles to reuse.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Maria Garcia, Region 3 Remedial Project Manager, at (215) 814-3199 or garcia.maria@epa.gov, or Bonnie Gross, Region 3 Superfund Redevelopment Coordinator at (215) 814-3229 or gross.bonnie@epa.gov.

Barriers:

Complex ownership issues, physical impediments (fences, warning signs), determining whether the desired future uses are consistent with the remedy, and competing reuse interests.

Solution:

Ongoing dialogues among potential future users, EPA, Newlin and West Bradford Townships, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



Before:

Vacant 302-acre landfill cleaned up with an open, grassy cap.

After:

Possible productive reuse by local stakeholders.